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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

September 24, 1980

ACTION is assigned to EA

The Honorable Edmund Muskie
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our concern about the notification of the pending $88 million arms sale to South Korea. In light of the tragic military coup there, and the recently announced sentencing of Mr. Kim Dae Jung, the timing of this request seems particularly poor.

None of us want to go through an acrimonious public debate that a Resolution of Disapproval of the 16B notification would entail, but the matter seems serious enough to warrant such action if the Department of State persists in its goal of pursuing the sale at this time.

We feel that a withdrawal of the request, until at least Mr. Kim's trial process is complete, would be a quiet signal to the government of South Korea that the United States shares our allies' concerns about the repressive actions of the Chun regime, and the falsity of the charges against Mr. Kim.

We are prepared to submit a Resolution of Disapproval to the Congress, but hope and anticipate that such action will not be necessary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Harkin
Member of Congress

Howard Wolpe
Member of Congress

Tip O'Neill

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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RDS or XDS EXT: DATE
TS AUTH: REASON (s)
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Benjamin Rosenthal
Member of Congress